

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 USPS-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OTPE-00 FCC-01

USIA-06 BIB-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SCCT-01 SY-05 EAE-00

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R 121125Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1226

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, TH

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS IN BANGKOK

REF: BANGKOK 19187

1. MAJOR PART OF THE POST AND TELEGRAPH STRIKE CONTINUES DESPITE ASSURANCES BY THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WILL BE GIVEN PROMPT ATTENTION. INITIALLY THE STRIKERS DEMANDED THAT THE BILL BE PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY TODAY, SEPTEMBER 12 AND THEY WOULD GO BACK TO WORK. STRIKE LEADERS NOW SAY THEY WILL NOT RETURN TO WORK UNTIL THE BILL IS APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT. THE PROPOSAL IS ON THE AGENDA OF PARLIAMENT BUT AS OF 1430 IT HAD NOT YET BEEN DEBATED. LATE AFTERNOON NEWS REPORTS SAY INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE AND TELEX SERVICE HAS BEEN RESTORED FOLLOWING THE PLACING OF THE BILL ON THE AGENDA (REFTEL).

2. A DEMONSTRATION BY LABOR LEADERS AND RANK AND FILE WORKERS PROTESTING THE PROPOSED NATIONAL SECURITY ACT (SEPTTEL) IS SET TO GET UNDERWAY AT 1600 AT THE PRAMAIN GROUND. AS OF EARLY THIS AFTERNOON ONLY TWO MODERATE LEADERS WERE SCHEDULED TO

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SPEAK. THEY INTENDED TO STATE THEIR OPPOSITION TO ANY LEGISLATION

WHICH WOULD LIMIT THE RIGHTS THEY NOW ENJOY. OVER THE LAST TWO DAYS SEVERAL LABOR LEADERS HAVE COMPLAINED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THEY HAVE BEEN UNDER PRESSURE FROM ACTIVIST STUDENT GROUPS TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE PROPOSED LAW AND MUSTER WORKER SUPPORT FOR A WEEKEND LONG DEMONSTRATION DEMANDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE BILL. ONE UNION LEADER SAID AGITATORS WERE BEING ORGANIZED TO BEEF UP AND EXCITE THE CROWDS THAT IF LEFT TO THERE OWN DEVICES WOULD BE SMALL.

3. THE JURIDICAL COUNCIL HAS THE DRAFT NATIONAL SECURITY ACT UNDER CONSIDERATION. THE SHARP OPPOSITION TO THE BILL, MOSTLY FROM LIBERALS, HAS CAUSED THE GOVERNMENT TO INDICATE THAT THE BILL MAY BE SCRAPPED EVEN BEFORE IT CAN BE SUBMITTED TO THE PARLIAMENT. ON SEPTEMBER 11 RTA COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, GENERAL KRIT SIWARA, GAVE QUALIFIED SUPPORT TO THE BILL, EMPHASIZING THE NEED TO CONTINUE WITHOUT INTERRUPTION MILITARY AND POLICE ACTION AGAINST TERRORISTS.

4. DURING THE MORNING APPROXIMATELY 1500 EMPLOYEES OF THE EXPRESS TRANSPORT ORGANIZATION GATHERED OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT TO LISTEN TO THE DEBATE ON A GOVERNMENT PLAN TO MERGE BANGKOK'S BUS COMPANIES. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO DISRUPTION OF BUS SERVICE, THE ETO UNION PRESIDENT HAS VOWED TO STRIKE IF ETO IS FORCED TO JOINT THE MERGING COMPANIES. THE TWO LARGEST PRIVATELY OWNED BUS COMPANIES

IN THE CITY HAVE ALSO BEEN LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PLAN AND THEIR EMPLOYEES COULD ALSO BE EXPECTED TO JOIN ANY STRIKE. MASTERS

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